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**NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO  
THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Docket Number (Optional)

VAC.483.US

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being filed electronically  
with the United States Patent and Trademark Officeon March 17, 2008Signature /Gerald T. Welch/Typed or printed name Gerald T. WelchIn re Application of  
**Royce W. Johnson**Application Number  
**09/937,942**Filed  
**October 2, 2001**For **VACUUM ASSISTED CLOSURE SYSTEM WITH  
PROVISION FOR INTRODUCTION OF AGENT**Art Unit  
**3761**Examiner  
**Stephens, Jacqueline F.**Applicant hereby **appeals** to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the examiner.

The fee for this Notice of Appeal is (37 CFR 1.17(b))

\$ 510.00☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee shown above is reduced  
by half, and the resulting fee is:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.☒ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account.  
I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment  
to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.☐ A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed.**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not  
be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

I am the

☐ applicant/inventor./Gerald T. Welch/

Signature

☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.  
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.  
(Form PTO/SB/96)Gerald T. Welch

Typed or printed name

☒ attorney or agent of record. 30,332

Registration number

(214) 259-0942

Telephone number

☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.  
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34. \_\_\_\_\_March 17, 2008

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required.  
Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below\*.☐ \*Total of \_\_\_\_\_ forms are submitted.This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.191. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.